Copy.

LIBRARY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ALNWICK.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health, I submit hereunder my interim report for the year ended 31st December, 1942, which is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

The staff remains the same as last year, but alas! one year older. This report, which I understand is urgently required, is distinctly of a provisional nature and based entirely on local returns, the corrections, when received later from the Registrar General being incorporated in the statistical register for a survey report after the war. I thought I had cut my report for 1941 down to the bone, but as it was not considered sufficiently brief, I propose this year to deal with elementary facts only.

During the year 1942 there were registered in the district 129 deaths and 174 births, giving a death rate of 10.71 and a birth rate of 14.45. Of the deaths, 12 were of persons under one year, and 81 of persons over 65 years. The 12 deaths under one year give an infantile death rate of 68.96. Those are the figures from the local returns, and are subject to correction by outward and inward transfers of births and deaths notification of which I will receive later.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notwithstanding the fact that 228 cases of infectious disease have been notified in the district, there have been no deaths from that cause. Most of the notifications were of measles which disease has been epidemic in the district for the last three quarters of the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 1942, 392 children under 5 years of age, and 1047 children over 5 years and under 15 years of age completed the full course of immunisation, which brings the percentage of the child population considered immunized, in the district, at the 31st of December, 1942, to 96%. During the year only two cases of diphtheria were notified in the District. The first case was stated to be bacteriologically negative in a week which is unusual. There was a history of a one shot immunisation. The second case occurred in a soldier in a Military Hospital and was removed from the district at once.

Finally for the fiftieth time I must thank the Chairman, the members of the Council and the members of the Staff, for the kindly consideration and co-operation which have made my Medical Officership the pleasantest of appointments.

SCOTT PURVES, M.D.
Medical Officer of Health.